

A B S T R A C T

The present invention relates to an apparatus and method for controlling access to protected web pages on a web server by using a method of authentication. The method according to the invention is divided into a general method for authenticating the client and a downstream method for granting authorization to access the protected web pages by generating a session ID of which the client is notified after successful authentication, and by inserting the session ID as part of the new request. This ensures that even the links on the protected-access web page are covered and are provided with a session ID to serve as access authorization. The session ID is preferably given a validity date. The present invention fits into the existing browser infrastructure without any alterations being needed for this purpose. The use of a chip card increases the security of the method of authentication.